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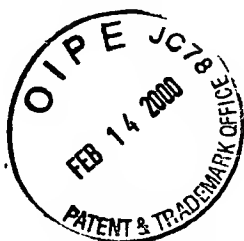
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
HIGUMA et al.

Serial No.: 09/370,659

Filed: August 6, 1999

For: ENDOSCOPE CAPABLE OF BEING AUTOCLAVED



Date: February 10, 2000

Group Art Unit: 3739

Examiner: Unknown

#6

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Submitted herewith is a copy of art together with an art listing form listing the same for the convenience of the Examiner.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The document(s) listed on the attached art listing form was/were cited in a Search Report issued by a foreign patent office in a related application. A copy of the Search Report (in the English language) is attached hereto for the Examiner's reference.
	The Japanese Publication(s) listed on the attached art listing form was/were cited in a Japanese Office Action issued in a related application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action and an English-language translation of the relevant portions are also attached.
	This submission is being made after the issuance of a first Office Action and three months after the application filing date. Thus a Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) is set forth below.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Submission was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Submission (37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)).
	This submission is being made after the issuance of the first Office Action and without a certification. The fee of \$240.00 under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is attached.
	This submission is being made after the issuance of a final rejection or a Notice of Allowance but prior to the payment of the issue fee. Applicant(s) hereby Petition for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and attach the fee of \$130.00 under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(I). A certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) is set forth above.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:
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Steven I. Weisburd
Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

February 10, 2000
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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